

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A blackout and thermal drapery fabric comprising, in combination:

an impregnated blackout film having a first side and a second side, said impregnated blackout film ~~adapted to achieve~~
being impregnated with filler particles capable of providing
light inhibition and thermal diminution;

a fabric located on one side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side, said first side of said fabric coupled to said second side of said impregnated blackout film; and

a layer of acrylic latex located on an opposite side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side, said first side of said layer of acrylic latex coated to said first side of said impregnated blackout film to provide the blackout and thermal drapery.

2. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 1 wherein said impregnated blackout film comprises a thermoplastic including at least one of polyvinyl chloride, polyester, nylon, polypropylene, polyurethane, polyethylene, polyvinyl acetate, copolymers of each of polyvinyl chloride, polyester, nylon, polypropylene, polyurethane, polyethylene and polyvinyl acetate.

3. (currently amended) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic is impregnated with ~~at least an ingredient~~ filler particles selected from the group consisting of at least a metal component, at least a pigment and at least a dye, so long as said ~~ingredient~~ filler particles of said impregnated blackout film ~~[[is]]~~ are capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution.

4. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 1 wherein said impregnated blackout film comprising a thermoplastic impregnated with aluminum, said impregnated blackout film having a thickness of at least 0.06 millimeters.

5. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 2 wherein said impregnated blackout film comprising a thermoplastic impregnated with at least a pigment, said impregnated blackout film having a thickness of at least 0.07 millimeters.

6. (currently amended) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 3 wherein said ~~ingredient~~ filler particles ~~comprising said impregnated blackout film~~ having an optical rating of greater than about 1.5.

7. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 1 wherein said second side of said layer of acrylic latex comprises a flock.

8. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 7 wherein said flock comprises at least one of natural and synthetic fibers selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, polyester and nylon.

9. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 1 wherein at least one of said impregnated blackout film, said fabric and said acrylic latex comprising a flame retardant.

10. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 1 wherein said fabric comprises at least one of natural and synthetic woven fibers selected from the group consisting of polyester, nylon, cotton, polyethylene and polypropylene.

11. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 1 wherein said fabric comprises at least one of natural and synthetic non-woven fibers selected from the group consisting of polyester, nylon, cotton, polyethylene, and polypropylene.

12. (currently amended) A blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric comprising, in combination:

an impregnated blackout film having a first side and a second side, said impregnated blackout film ~~adapted to achieve~~ being impregnated with filler particles capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution;

a fabric located on one side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side, said first side of said fabric coupled to said second side of said impregnated blackout film; and

a layer of acrylic latex located on an opposite side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side, said first side of said layer of acrylic latex coated to said first side of said impregnated blackout film to provide the blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric dimensioned to be lined to a second fabric located on an opposite side of said fabric and having a first side and a second side.

13. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric according to Claim 12 wherein said second side of said fabric of said impregnated blackout and thermal drapery lining is coupled to said first side of said second fabric to provide a blackout and thermal drapery fabric.

14. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric according to Claim 12 wherein said impregnated blackout film comprises a thermoplastic including at least polyvinyl chloride.

15. (currently amended) The blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric according to Claim 12 wherein said impregnated blackout film comprising a thermoplastic impregnated with ~~at least an ingredient~~ filler particles selected from the group consisting of at least a metal component, at least a pigment and at least a dye, so long as said ~~ingredient~~ filler particles of said impregnated blackout film ~~[[is]]~~ capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution.

16. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric according to Claim 12 wherein said second side of said layer of acrylic latex comprises a flock, said flock comprising at least one of natural and synthetic fibers selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, polyester and nylon.

17. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric according to Claim 12 wherein at least one of said impregnated blackout film, said first fabric and said acrylic latex comprising a flame retardant.

18. (currently amended) A blackout and thermal drapery fabric comprising, in combination:

an impregnated blackout film having a first side and a second side, said impregnated blackout film ~~adapted to achieve~~ being impregnated with filler particles capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution;

a first fabric located on one side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side, said first side of said first fabric coupled to said second side of said impregnated blackout film;

a second fabric located on an opposite side of said first fabric and having a first side and a second side, said second side of said first fabric coupled to said first side of said second fabric; and

a layer of acrylic latex located on an opposite side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side, said first side of said layer of acrylic latex coated to said first side of said impregnated blackout film to provide the blackout and thermal drapery fabric.

19. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 18 wherein said impregnated blackout film comprises a thermoplastic including at least polyvinyl chloride.

20. (currently amended) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 19 wherein said thermoplastic is impregnated with ~~at least an ingredient~~ filler particles selected from the group consisting of at least a metal component, at least a pigment and at least a dye, so long as said ~~ingredient~~ filler particles of said impregnated blackout film ~~[[is]]~~ are capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution.

21. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 18 wherein said second fabric comprises at least one of natural and synthetic non-woven fibers selected from the group consisting of polyester, nylon, cotton, polyethylene and polypropylene so that said second fabric may be decorated and printed on without any discoloration.

22. (currently amended) A blackout and thermal drapery fabric comprising, in combination:

an extruded impregnated blackout film, said extruded impregnated blackout film ~~adapted to achieve~~ being impregnated with filler particles capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution;

a fabric located on one side of said extruded impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side; said extruded impregnated blackout film applied to the first side of said fabric; and

a layer of acrylic latex located on an opposite side of said extruded impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side, said first side of said layer of acrylic latex coated to said first side of said extruded impregnated blackout film to provide the blackout and thermal drapery fabric.

23. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 22 wherein said extruded impregnated blackout film comprises a thermoplastic including at least one of polyvinyl chloride, polyester, nylon, polypropylene, polyurethane, polyethylene, polyvinyl acetate, copolymers of each of polyvinyl chloride, polyester, nylon, polypropylene, polyurethane, polyethylene and polyvinyl acetate.

24. (currently amended) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 22 wherein said extruded impregnated blackout film comprising a thermoplastic impregnated with ~~at least an ingredient~~ filler particles selected from the group consisting of at least a metal component, at least a pigment and at least a dye, so long as said ~~ingredient~~ filler particles of said extruded impregnated blackout film ~~[[is]]~~ are capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution.

25. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 22 wherein said second side of said layer of acrylic latex comprises a flock, said flock comprising at least one of natural and synthetic fibers selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, polyester and nylon.

26. (original) The blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 22 wherein at least one of said extruded impregnated blackout film, said first fabric and said acrylic latex comprising a flame retardant.

27. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a blackout and thermal drapery fabric, comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing an impregnated blackout film having a first side and a second side, said impregnated blackout film ~~adapted to achieve~~ being impregnated with filler particles capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution;

providing a fabric located on one side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side;

coupling said first side of said fabric to said second side of said impregnated blackout film;

providing a layer of acrylic latex located on an opposite side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side; and

coating said first side of said layer of acrylic latex to said first side of said impregnated blackout film to provide the blackout and thermal drapery fabric.

28. (original) The method for manufacturing a blackout and thermal drapery fabric according to Claim 27 further comprising the steps of:

providing a second fabric located on an opposite side of said fabric and having a first side and a second side; and

coupling said first side of said second fabric to said second side of said fabric, so that said second side of said second fabric may be decorated and printed on without any discoloration.

29. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a blackout and thermal drapery fabric, comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing ~~at least an ingredient for~~ an extruded impregnated blackout film, said extruded impregnated blackout film being impregnated with filler particles capable of ~~providing said ingredient for said extruded impregnated blackout film adapted to achieve~~ light inhibition and thermal diminution;

providing a fabric located on one side of said extruded impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side;

~~extruding~~ coupling said ingredient extruded impregnated blackout film to the first side of said fabric ~~to provide said extruded impregnated blackout film;~~

providing a layer of acrylic latex located on an opposite side of said extruded impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side; and

coating said first side of said layer of acrylic latex to said first side of said extruded impregnated blackout film to provide the blackout and thermal drapery fabric.

30. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric, comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing an impregnated blackout film having a first side and a second side, said impregnated blackout film ~~adapted to achieve~~ being impregnated with filler particles capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution;

providing a fabric located on one side of said impregnated blackout film and having a first side and a second side;

coupling said first side of said fabric to said second side of said impregnated blackout film; and

coating a layer of acrylic latex located on an opposite side of said impregnated blackout film having a first side and a second side to said first side of said impregnated blackout film to provide the blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric dimensioned to be lined to a second fabric located on an opposite side of said fabric and having a first side and a second side.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

1. Please make the following changes to the indicated paragraphs of the Description of the Invention section.

a. Paragraph appearing on p. 14:18-29.

In one preferred embodiment of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10, the impregnated blackout film 12 further comprises ~~an ingredient~~ filler particles of at least a metal component. The impregnated blackout film 12 is impregnated with the metal component filler particles. A preferred metal component is aluminum, although it should be clearly understood that substantial benefit could be derived from an alternative configuration of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 in which the impregnated blackout film 12 comprises an aluminum alloy, titanium, tungsten, a combination thereof or blends of other metal components so long as the impregnated blackout film 12 is capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution.

b. Paragraph appearing on p.14:30 - p.15:13

In an alternative preferred embodiment of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10, the impregnated blackout film 12 further comprises ~~an ingredient~~ filler particles of at least a pigment, although it should be clearly understood that substantial benefit could be derived from an alternative configuration of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 in

which the impregnated blackout film 12 comprises ~~an ingredient~~ filler particles of at least a dye, a combination of ~~ingredients~~ filler particles of at least a pigment and at least a dye, a combination of ~~ingredients~~ filler particles of at least a metal component and at least a pigment, a combination of ~~ingredients~~ filler particles of at least a metal component and at least a dye or a combination of ~~ingredients~~ filler particles of at least a metal component, at least a pigment and at least a dye so long as the filler particles are ~~impregnated blackout film 12 is~~ capable of providing light inhibition and thermal diminution. The impregnated blackout film 12 of the second preferred embodiment of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 is impregnated with any combination of the ~~ingredients~~ filler particles as described above.

c. Paragraph appearing on p.15:14-22

Preferably, ~~an ingredient~~ the filler particles comprising the impregnated blackout film 12 ~~[[has]]~~ have an optical rating of greater than about 1.5, although it should be clearly understood that substantial benefit could be derived from an alternative configuration of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 in which the optical rating of the metal component, the pigment component, the dye component and combinations thereof deviate, even substantially, from the preferred optical rating in either direction.

d. Paragraph appearing on p.15:23 - p.16:2

In one preferred embodiment, the impregnated blackout film 12 comprising ~~of an ingredient~~ filler particles of aluminum or other metal components has a thickness of at least 2.25 mils (0.06 millimeters). In an alternative preferred embodiment, the impregnated blackout film 12 comprising ~~of an ingredient~~ filler particles of the pigment has a thickness of at least 2.75 mils (0.07 millimeters). It should be clearly understood that substantial benefit could be derived from an alternative configuration of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 in which the thickness of the impregnated blackout film 12 comprising ~~of an ingredient~~ filler particles of the metal component or the pigment deviates, even substantially, from the preferred thickness in either direction.

e. Paragraph appearing on p.18:15 - p.19:11

The blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric 50 comprises an impregnated blackout film 12 having a first side 14 and a second side 16. The impregnated blackout film 12 comprises a thermoplastic impregnated with ~~an ingredient~~ filler particles of at least a metal component, at least a pigment, at least a dye or any combination of at least a metal component, at least a pigment and at least a dye, as described above for the impregnated blackout film 12 of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10. The impregnated blackout film 12 of the blackout and

thermal drapery lining fabric 50 has a thickness similar to the impregnated blackout film 12 of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 (see description above). The first side 26 of the fabric 24 is coupled to the first side 14 of the impregnated blackout film 12. The blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric 50 further comprises a layer of acrylic latex 18 having a first side 20 and a second sided 22. It should be understood that in addition to acrylic, urethanes or a blend of urethane and acrylic is also contemplated as earlier described for the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10. The first side 20 of the layer of acrylic latex 18 is coated to the second side 16 of the impregnated blackout film 12. The second side 22 of the layer of acrylic latex 18 may be flocked or non-flocked (see the description of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10, above). Each of the fabric 24 and the second fabric 30 may be woven or non-woven (see the description of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10, above). The impregnated blackout film 12, the fabric 24 and the layer of acrylic latex 18 of the blackout and thermal drapery lining fabric 50 may be fire retardant as described for the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 (see description above).

f. Paragraph appearing on p.19:12-27

Referring now to Fig. 3, a portion of a third example of a blackout and thermal drapery fabric 200 comprises an extruded

impregnated blackout film 38 applied from an extruder 36 to a fabric 24 having a first side 26 and a second side 28. According to Fig. 3, the extruded impregnated blackout film 38 is applied to the first side 26 of the fabric 24. The blackout and thermal drapery fabric 200 is substantially the same as the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10, except that in the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 200, the extruded impregnated blackout film 38 is directly applied to the fabric 24, rather than being laminated (see Figs. 1 and 4 and the description of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 above). There is no need to provide a plastisol adhesive as earlier described for laminating the impregnated blackout film 12 to the fabric 24 of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10, resulting in greater manufacturing efficiency and beneficial economics. For this reason, the same reference numbers used in describing the features of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 will be used when describing the identical features of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 200.

g. Paragraph appearing on p.19:28 - p.20:32

Referring to Fig. 4, the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 200 comprises an extruded impregnated blackout film 38 having a first side 40 and a second side 42, a fabric having a first side 26 and a second side 28 and a layer of acrylic latex 18 having a first side 20 and a second side 22. It should be

understood that in addition to acrylic, urethanes or a blend of urethane and acrylic is also contemplated as earlier described for the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10. The first side 40 of the extruded impregnated blackout film 38 is then coupled to the first side 26 of the fabric 24 ~~during the extruding step as described above. There is no need to provide a plastisol adhesive as earlier described for laminating the impregnated blackout film 12 to the fabric 24 of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10, resulting in greater manufacturing efficiency and beneficial economics.~~ The second side 22 of the layer of acrylic latex 18 is coupled to the second side 42 of the extruded impregnated blackout film 38. The first side 20 of the layer of acrylic latex may be flocked as described above for the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10, although it is understood that substantial benefit may be derived from a non-flocked version of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 200. The extruded impregnated blackout film 38 comprises a thermoplastic impregnated with ~~an ingredient~~ filler particles of at least a metal component, at least a pigment, at least a dye or any combination of at least a metal component, at least a pigment and at least a dye, as described above for the impregnated blackout film 12 of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10. The extruded impregnated blackout film 38 has a thickness similar to the impregnated blackout film 12 of the

blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 (see description above). Similarly, the fabric 24 of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 200 comprises either woven or non-woven natural or synthetic fibers as described for the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 (see description above). The extruded impregnated blackout film 38, the fabric 24 and the layer of acrylic latex 18 of the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 200 may be fire retardant as described for the blackout and thermal drapery fabric 10 (see description above).